

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE re: THE STATEMENT OF THE UNION HOME MINISTER IN THE PARLIAMENT REGARDING THE MAHAJAN COMMISSION REPORT.

Sri H. N. NANJE GOWDA (Arkalgud).—I call the attention of the Chief Minister to the statement made by the Union Home Minister in the Parliament on 6th December, 1967 regarding the Mahajan Commission's report.

† Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA (Chief Minister).—In reply to his calling attention, I want to submit that in support of the statement made by the Home Minister Mr. Chavan, I have not been able to get an official version. Certain statements alleged to have been made have appeared in the Press and they are not of the same nature. There may be a slight difference. I would rather hesitate to make a statement on the matter coming up from different quarters. I would like to say there is a feeling according to the Home Minister's statement that there may be a consensus of opinion or that the Leaders of the various parties will be invited and their opinion taken. I have no sympathy with that. I have already made a statement to the Press that I do not understand this approach and I have not been able to follow it as it is vague and we cannot act on such vague report. According to me a report has been received by the Central Government to take a decision and place the matter before the Parliament. If the consensus is to be taken in this regard, I have no sympathy with it. I do not want to indulge in this.

FOURTH AND THE FIFTH REPORTS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(Presentations.)

Mr. SPEAKER.—I present the Fourth and Fifth reports of the Business Advisory Committee.

STATEMENT OF MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND FORESTS re: SCARCITY CONDITIONS AND RELIEF MEASURES IN THE STATE.

Sri B. RACHAIAH.—Owing to the delayed, inadequate and unevenly distributed rainfall during the months from June to October, 1967, the seasonal conditions in several districts are not satisfactory. The standing crops in several places are reported to be withering, the tanks have not received sufficient water and the prospect of a good harvest in several areas is not bright.

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The total budget provision for scarcity relief under '64 Famine—
—b—Relief works' is Rs. 25,84,000 made up as follows :—

Bangalore Division	...	...	6,00,000
Mysore Division	...	...	5,00,000
Belgaum Division	...	...	11,60,000
Gulbarga Division	...	...	3,24,000

An additional allotment of Rs. 3 lakhs was made to Mysore Division in the month of October, 1967. Further, additional allotment of Rs. 5 lakhs for Bangalore Division and another 4 lakhs for Mysore Division have now been made for executing Scarcity Relief works.

The budget provision for Land Improvement Loans is Rs. 66,45,000 and the provision for Takhvi Loans is Rs. 45 lakhs.

The Government of India have sanctioned a short term loan of Rs. 50 lakhs for distribution among the agriculturists for purchase of seeds, manures and pesticides and a provision of Rs. 12½ lakhs has been made for each Division.

The Budget provision for completion of incomplete irrigation wells under Liberalised Rules and the C. D. Programme is Rs. 45 lakhs.

All these budget provisions have been distributed among the Divisions. The Divisional Commissioners have in turn distributed the amounts among the districts.

A further loan assistance of Rs. 18,57,000, has recently been received from the Government of India for Fertiliser Takavi. This amount is being distributed among the Divisions and Districts.

So far as relief works under "64 Famine Relief" are concerned, Taluk Relief Committees consisting of officials and non-officials have been constituted in each of the Taluks. Labour-intensive projects which are productive in nature have been ordered to be taken up. The following order of priorities has been fixed by Government :—

1. Repairing of breaches in breached tanks ;
2. Repairing of sluices and bunds ;
3. Construction of Feeder channels to tanks and from tanks to their atchkat ;
4. Desilting of tanks followed by construction of slit traps, planting of trees in the catchment area. (Trenches will be dug along contours in these areas and trees will be planted at the appropriate time after the next rains) ;
5. Digging of wells for common use in dried up tankbeds and installation of diesel pump sets therein ;

6. Contour bunding in areas where there are no tanks or wells;
7. Afforestation in hill areas (only trenching to be done now to be followed by planting after the next rains);
8. Construction of small pick-ups across streams in suitable areas.
9. Road Works.

Orders have been issued sanctioning a scheme of construction of irrigation wells in the chronically scarcity affected areas in the State initially from funds under '64 Famine Relief'. Under this Scheme, only local labour is to be employed and rates mutually agreed to by the beneficiaries and the local labour, or the P. W. D. current scheduled rates, whichever are less, are to be given. The wells will be individual wells and not community wells. The expenditure will be debited initially to '64 Famine—b—Relief works; If the well proves successful, the expenditure will be treated as loan and will be recovered from the beneficiary. If the well proves un-successful, the expenditure will be debited finally to "64 Famine Relief"

Soil conservation (Contour bunding) plays a large and significant part in fighting scarcity conditions on a permanent basis. The total budget allotment for soil conservation works in the State by the Department of Agriculture is Rs. 44,50,000. The budget allotments for Bangalore, Chitradurga and Bijapur Divisions are Rs. 11 lakhs each; the allotments for Mysore and Gulbarga Divisions are Rs. 5,75,000 each. These allotments are for the works only, and exclusive of establishment charges. Out of the total allotment of Rs. 44,50,000 a sum of Rs. 40 lakhs is meant for works in the drought affected area.

Soil conservation is a very important item of work having a close bearing on scarcity relief. It is both labour-intensive and production-oriented. It is capable of employing a large number of labourers and at the same time increases the productivity of the soil on a permanent basis in the drought affected areas.

A large number of villages in several districts of the State which were affected by scarcity conditions during the years 1965-66 and 1966-67 have been declared as scarcity areas Under Section 37 (i) of the Mysore Land Improvement Act to enable Soil Conservation works to be taken up. In some of these villages soil conservation work was actually started and in some others the work could not be started by the Soil Conservation Wing of the Department of Agriculture.

Due to the North-East monsoon rains in October and November, 1966 Government have since decided that it is not necessary to re-notify all the villages where the schemes prepared under Section 37 (2) of the Act had not been revoked by the Government Under Section 38. The

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Divisional Commissioners, the Deputy Commissioners of Districts and all the Divisional Soil Conservation Officers have now been directed to take up soil conservation work (contour bunding) on a large scale in villages where scarcity conditions have been noticed and this measure will provide employment to thousands of villagers in need of relief, besides increasing soil productivity. This is just the proper time for taking up soil conservation work on a large a scale as is required in view of the fact that the standing crops would by now have been harvested or will be harvested shortly.

Proposals are being received from the Deputy Commissioners of the scarcity affected districts for declaring new villages under Section 37 (1) of the Act, for the purpose of taking up soil conservation work. Notifications are under issue, regarding fresh villages, in which contour bunding will be taken up.

Minor Irrigation Wells :

So far as Minor Irrigation Wells are concerned, under the Liberalised Rules, the number of wells sanctioned during the years 1960-61 to 1964-65 is nearly 39,500. Out of this, about 25,000 wells have been completed. In about 4,000 cases summary recovery has been completed. In about 4,000 cases summary recovery has been ordered. About 500 wells have failed. About 9,000 wells are still in progress. Orders have been issued recently for the completion of all the incomplete irrigation wells before the end of March, 1968, in any case, so that additional employment would be generated and at the same time, water would be available for irrigation thereby adding to food production. The Budget allotment for completion of incomplete irrigation wells under the liberalised rules and the G.D. Programme is Rs. 45 lakhs.

Under the Community Development programme, the number of irrigation wells sanctioned up to 1st November, 1965 is 19,300; Out of this, the number of wells completed is 11,890. 540 wells have failed. In about 1,300 cases, summary recovery has been ordered. 5,500 wells are still in progress. Orders have been issued for completion of all the incomplete wells before the end of March, 1968. Construction of minor irrigation wells has been entrusted to the Co-operative Sector, through the Primary Land Development Banks.

A Budget provision of Rs. 2,12,50,000 has been made for purchase of debentures of the Land Development Bank for sanction of new irrigation wells. The number of irrigation wells sanctioned by the Land Development Banks up to the end of October, 1967, is 15,207. The number of wells completed during the month of October, 1967, is 272 and from the inspection of the scheme from 1st November, 1965 up to

31st October, 1967, is 3,113. The number of new wells proposed to be sanctioned during the year 1967-68 is 20,000.

As regards minor irrigation works in the P.W.D. sector, a Budget provision of over Rs. 6 crores has been made for the execution of the sanctioned works. In view of the heavy spill-over commitments under minor irrigation of the P.W.D. sector and also in view of the limited grants available, no new minor irrigation works could so far be taken up. Instructions have been issued for completing expeditiously the sanctioned minor irrigation works in the scarcity affected areas by fully utilising the Budget allotments.

As regards supply of electrical pump sets to the agriculturists, against the Budget provision of Rs. 3,50,00,000, expenditure incurred up to the end of October, 1967 is Rs. 184.36 lakhs. The number of electrical pump sets sanctioned up to the end of October, 1967, is 9,472 while the number of electrical pump sets energised up to the end of October, 1967, is 6,864, against the target of 12,000 Electrical Irrigation Pump Sets for 1967-1968.

In regard to the supply of diesel oil Pump Sets on hire-purchase system, against the final allocation of Rs. 40 lakhs, the expenditure incurred is Rs. 4,50,000.

Instructions have been issued recently to all the concerned officers in regard to the measures to be adopted to save the standing crops and to facilitate the growing of summer food crops.

Orders are being issued for constituting of Taluk Co-ordination Committees consisting of the Tahsildar, the Block Development Officer, the Assistant Engineer of the P.W.D., the Assistant Engineer of the Mysore State Electricity Board and other officers at the Taluk level. An important function of this Committee will be to draw up an annual, integrated plan of development and scarcity relief works at the taluk level utilising the funds of various Government Departments and Statutory Bodies, like the Mysore State Electricity Board, the Taluk Development Board and Co-operative Bodies, like the Primary Land Development Banks, etc., laying down the physical targets and the finances made available for each work or scheme in the Taluk and to place this integrated plan before the Taluk Relief Committee and then to implement the plan.

Uniform Rules for the entire State, regarding suspension and remission of land revenue are now under finalisation. Pending issue of the uniform rules, power has been delegated to the Deputy Commissioners of Districts under Section 194 (i) of the Mysore Land Revenue Act, 1964, to suspend the collection of land revenue in areas, where the Deputy Commissioners feel that on account of failure of crops in a tract owing to an inadequate rainfall or other cause, the land-holder is not able to pay the land revenue.